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PATENT #6

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Application of
Grossman, T. et al.

Examiner: **Loeb, B.**

APR 09 2001

Serial No.: **09/596,114**

Art Unit: **1636**

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Filed: **June 16, 2000**

Title: **Novel Vectors For Improving Cloning
And Expression In Low Copy Number
Plasmids**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
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ELECTION IN RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed November 1, 2000, applicants hereby elect group I, claims 1-18, directed to a vector. The election is made with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of groups II-VII are sufficiently related that a thorough search for the vector of group I, would encompass a search for the subject matter of the the methods of using it of groups II-VII.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See, MPEP 803 in which it is stated that "[I]f the search and examination of an entire application could be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

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Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement, and allowance of claims 1-27 are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark C. Nelligan", is written over a horizontal line.

Mark C. Nelligan, #36,389
Attorney/Agent for Applicant

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